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num, chromite, tungsten, antimony, potash and nitrate.

The war not only diverted practically all the activities of the topographic branch of the survey to work designed to meet the urgent needs of the war department for military surveys, but led to the commissioning of the majority of the topographers as reserve officers in the Corps of Engineers, United States Army.

A large contribution to the military service is made by the map-printing establishment of the survey. This plant has been available for both confidential and urgent work, and during the year has printed 96 editions of maps for the war department and 906 editions of charts for the navy department. Other lithographic work, some of it very complicated, was in progress at the end of the year.

WORK OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS

THE annual report of the executive committee of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics states that previous to the entrance of the United States into the war the committee had undertaken a census of the production facilities of manufacturers of aircraft and aeronautic engines, which information was made available for use of the Aircraft Production Board at the beginning of its work in April.

In October, 1916, the committee took under consideration the question of the selection of a suitable site for the committee's proposed experimental laboratory. At the suggestion of the War Department this committee inspected several proposed sites and made recommendation to the War Department for the purchase of one of them, which recommendation was accepted by the War Department and the site was purchased. On this field the War

Department has allotted to the committee a space suited to the erection of the committee's proposed research laboratories. The committee has designed the first building of the group contemplated and it is now in the course of construction.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Theodore Caldwell Janeway, professor of medicine at the Johns Hopkins University; of Albert Homer Purdue, state geologist of Tennessee; of Joseph Price Remington, dean of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy; of Hugo Schweitzer, the industrial chemist; of Louis Pope Gratacap, curator of mineralogy in the American Museum of Natural History; of A. M. W. Downing, formerly superintendent of the *British Nautical Almanac*, and of Fritz Daniel Frech, professor of geology and paleontology in the University of Breslau.

M. PAINLEVÉ has been elected president of the Paris Academy of Sciences, succeeding M. d'Arsonval. —In recognition of his contributions to science, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt has been appointed honorary fellow of the American Museum of Natural History, of which his father, Theodore Roosevelt, Sr., was one of the founders and most energetic supporters.

The committee has made progress during the year in the study and investigation of the following problems: Stability as determined by mathematical investigation, air-speed meters, wing sections, aeronautical engine design, radiator design, air-propeller design and efficiency, forms of airplane, radio telegraphy, noncorrosive materials, flat and cambered surfaces, terminal connections, characteristics of constructive materials, and standardization of specifications for materials.